



BOROUGH OF OLDBURY



REPORT
on the
Health of Oldbury

For the Year 1952

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B o r o u g h



o f O l d b u r y

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

and

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the Year 1952.

Medical Officer of Health:

EUGENE V. CONNOLLY, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H., L.M.,
D.C.H.

(Resigned 30.4.52)

HENRY TABBUSH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

(Commenced 1.7.52)

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

EDGAR HARROLD, F.S.I.A., M.I.P.C.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE COUNCIL.

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BOROUGH OF OLDBURY.

MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE, 31st DECEMBER, 1952.

ALDERMAN S. T. MELSOM, J.P., C.A., *Chairman*.

ALDERMAN B. T. ROBBINS, J.P., C.C., *Vice-Chairman*.

ALDERMAN G. W. ROSE, J.P.	COUNCILLOR
COUNCILLOR DR. H. BARRADA	MRS. M. E. GARRATT,
„ J. D. BEARD,	J.P.
„ M.B.E., C.C.	„ A. GUNN, C.C.
„ W. CARTER	„ W. H. HUNTER
	„ MRS. R. STARKIE
	„ F. W. THOMPSON

OLDBURY AREA HEALTH SUB-COMMITTEE, 31st DECEMBER, 1952.

County Council Representatives:

ALDERMAN J. W. BRIGHT, J.P.

ALDERMAN SIR W. HUGH S. CHANCE, M.A., F.I.I.A.

ALDERMAN H. PARKES, J.P.

ALDERMAN S. T. MELSOM, J.P., *Chairman*.

ALDERMAN SIR A. CHAD T. WOODWARD, D.O., J.P.

COUNCILLOR MRS. E. M. GOODE.

Oldbury Borough Council Representatives:

ALDERMAN J. W. HOLLAND.

ALDERMAN B. T. ROBBINS, J.P., C.C., *Vice-Chairman*.

ALDERMAN G. W. ROSE, J.P.

COUNCILLOR A. GUNN, C.C.

COUNCILLOR MRS. E. M. J. GUNN, J.P.

COUNCILLOR W. HAYES, C.C.

Co-opted Members:

DR. W. H. SHILVOCK.

COUNCILLOR MRS. M. E. GARRATT, J.P. (representing the
Committee for Education for Oldbury).

MRS. L. RILEY (representing the Oldbury W.V.S.)

STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT:

Medical Officer of Health:

EUGENE V. CONNOLLY, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.,
L.M., D.C.H.
(Resigned 30.4.52)

HENRY TABBUSH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
(Commenced 1.7.52).

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

MARGARET O. WILL,
M.B., Ch.B., M.M.S.A., D.P.H., D.Obst.R.C.O.G.

Assistant Medical Officer:

Dental Surgeon:

HAROLD NORDAN, L.D.S., R.C.S. (Eng.), L.D.S. (U. Leeds).
(Part-time).

ALMA M. FACER, L.D.S. (Part-time).

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

EDGAR HARROLD, F.S.I.A., M.I.P.C. (a.b.h.)

Ophthalmic Specialist (Part-time):

GUY F. G. SIGGINS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.O.M.S.

Consultant:

MR. J. S. M. CONNELL, F.R.C.S. (Edin.).

Senior Health Visitor—School Nurse:

MISS D. H. EDWARDS, (c.d.e.)

Health Visitors and School Nurses:

MISS H. STANSFIELD (c.d.e.). MRS. M. McLEOD (c.d.e.)
,, B. M. LAMB (c.d.e.) MISS G. N. DAWSON (d.e.)
,, E. M. L. FREESTONE (c.d.e.)

Senior Midwife/District Nurse:

MISS E. F. E. MONK (c.d.e.j.)

Municipal Midwives:

NURSE C. E. HADLEY (d.e.) NURSE D. MAYBURY (d.e.)
,, E. ECCLES (d.e.) (Resigned 5.5.52)
(Resigned 25.8.52) ,, M. HOLLAND (d.e.)
,, A. M. WILLIAMS (d.) (Resigned 31.3.52)
,, M. M. BISHOP (d.e.) ,, L. JACQUES (d.e.)
,, J. L. RIDGER (d.e.) ,, B. EWINGS (d.e.)
(Commenced 1.8.52) (Commenced 18.10.52)

District Nurses:

Mrs. S. J. GALLAGHER (e). Miss E. ANDREWS (g.)
Miss H. L. GAUNT (d.e.) Mrs. L. I. BAKER (g.)

Day Nursery:

Matron: MRS. C. E. M. DAWSON (d.e.)
MRS. D. BRICE. MRS. O. CHALLINOR.
MISS V. CADDICK.

Sanitary Inspectors:

Deputy Chief—W. J. MASON, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. (a.b.i.).
Additional—F. J. ANDREWS, M.S.I.A. (a.b.).
 F. W. KEENE, M.S.I.A. (a.b.k.).
 D. PARTRIDGE, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I. (a.b.k.).

Clerical Staff:

Health:

Chief Clerk—S. ASTLEY
Senior Clerk—T. K. BOSTON
MRS. S. M. WESTWOOD
(Part-time)
MISS A. E. SMITH
,, D. M. PLEAVIN
,, J. F. FIDOE
(Resigned 31.8.52)
,, M. CASTLE
(Commenced 6.8.52)
,, P. ROBERTS
(Commenced 3.4.52)

Sanitary:

Chief Clerk—
W. H. POULTNEY
(Resigned 31.12.52)
J. A. JEAUVONS
D. STUCKEY
J. CUTLER

NOTES.

- (a) Holds the Sanitary Inspectors' Certificate granted by the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Association Joint Board.
- (b) Holds the Meat and Foods Inspectors' Certificate granted by the Royal Sanitary Institute.
- (c) Holds the Health Visitors' Certificate approved by the Ministry of Health.
- (d) Holds the Midwives' Certificate granted by the Central Midwives Board.
- (e) Trained Nurse.
- (f) Holds the Midwives Teachers' Diploma.
- (g) State Enrolled Assistant Nurse.
- (h) Diploma of the Institute of Public Cleansing.
- (i) Honours Certificate of the Institute of Hygiene
- (j) Queen's Institute of District Nursing.
- (k) Holds the Smoke Inspectors' Certificate granted by the Royal Sanitary Institute.

BOROUGH OF OLDBURY.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health.

For the Year 1952.

To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors of the
Borough of Oldbury.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my first annual report on the health of the Borough for the year 1952.

In taking this opportunity to pay tribute to my predecessor, Dr. E. V. Connolly, I must also express my gratitude to my Chief Clerk, Mr. S. Astley, who has not spared himself in facilitating my task of taking up the duties of my appointment.

It is not my intention to deal in any detail with the statistical part of this report but I would like to draw your attention to some outstanding factors related to the health of the Borough.

Infant Mortality.

It is very satisfactory that this rate, generally acknowledged to be a sensitive index of the health of the community, should have

reached the figure of 24.09 per thousand live births, the lowest ever recorded for the Borough. The main hazards now are prematurity and congenital malformations but there still occur a few deaths in infancy from respiratory diseases which could be prevented by a higher standard of maternal care and earlier recourse to medical advice.

Two of the deaths were of illegitimate infants. The illegitimate Birth Rate expressed as a percentage of total births shows an increase over the previous year and is nearly three times the rate in 1940. Factors which could help to reduce this figure would be greater parental control, sex education in the Senior Girls' Schools, and more effective control of the feeble-minded.

Clinics.

The Infant Welfare Clinics continue to be well attended, almost 80% of babies born in the Borough having been brought to the Clinics by their Mothers.

On the other hand, Ante-Natal Clinics show a further decline in attendances during 1952. A greater proportion of women have had their babies in Hospital and in most cases the Hospital undertakes their ante-natal supervision. Many of the Mothers who have their babies at home are receiving ante-natal care from their own doctors. The local authority clinics offer many additional facilities which are not always available to general practitioners including blood-tests, relaxation exercises and contact with Midwives, Health Visitors, and prospective Mothers, all of whom can contribute useful advice on the management of pregnancy and future care of the baby. These facilities have been brought to the attention of local practitioners who have been invited to encourage their patients to avail themselves of the services offered at the Clinics.

With regard to Hospital patients, while it is advisable for the doctor who will be responsible for the delivery to examine the Mother during the ante-natal period, there seems to be no justification for requiring women, whose pregnancy is progressing normally, to make long journeys to hospital for routine examinations which could equally well be carried out at local clinics,

The increase in the rate of house building should enable more women to have their babies at home and it is to be hoped that the present trend of an ever-increasing proportion of hospital confinements will be reversed.

Dental Treatment.

It has not been possible during the year, owing to shortage of staff, to give a dental service to Mothers and Children under 5. The two part-time dentists were fully employed with the School Dental Service. Efforts to recruit additional Dental Officers continue and it is hoped to be able to offer a service to cover the priority classes when these appointments are filled.

Tuberculosis.

Both notification and death rates show an improvement over the previous year. While the age distribution of notified cases follows the usual pattern it will be noted that the age at death shows a significant change. Only one death occurred under the age of 35. This probably reflects the results of the modern drugs and surgical procedures available for the treatment of the disease.

One result of modern treatment should be borne in mind. In some cases the life of the patient is prolonged but so also is the period during which he remains infective and a possible source of further cases. In such circumstances it is more important than ever that the preventive measures undertaken by the Health Committee for the protection of the community should be effective. Of these measures one of the most important is the provision of adequate housing accommodation so that the patient is enabled to occupy a separate bedroom. During his period in the Sanatorium he will have been instructed in methods of personal hygiene to prevent the spread of his infection to other members of his family. These methods cannot possibly be carried out if he has to return to an overcrowded home. It is to be hoped that in view of the increase in the number of houses under construction, more houses will be allocated to tuberculous families in the coming year than were granted during 1952.

In addition to recommending re-housing in appropriate cases, the Tuberculosis After-Care Committee has been able to assist tuberculous patients in many ways during the year. It is a pleasure to record that the Annual Dance, which has now become a regular fixture on the Oldbury social calendar, has again helped to raise funds for this Committee.

Cancer.

There has been no significant variation in either the death-rate or the site distribution of the disease.

Elderly Infirm.

The problem of finding suitable accommodation for the infirm old people, often living alone and being looked after by kindly neighbours, remains an acute one. Local Hospitals have been very co-operative in taking the most urgent cases but are limited by lack of beds. The provision of a sick bay or infirmary in association with the Barlow Homes for the Aged being built in the Borough, would be of great benefit to the old people and would relieve the pressure on hospital beds.

Accidents.

It is comfortable to say "Accidents will happen" and leave it at that, but many accidents can be and should be prevented. The rate of industrial accidents has been greatly reduced by a study of the men and the machines and making the necessary adjustments. It should be possible for Health Departments to carry out similar studies with respect to accidents occurring at home and in school. If all accidents requiring hospital treatment were notified to Health Departments, investigations could be carried out as to the circumstances in each case. The information thus obtained, could lead to the adoption of preventive measures and its publication alone, by drawing attention to the most common causes, would help to indicate to the public the precautions that should be taken.

Housing.

The importance of adequate accommodation for the Tuberculous has already been pointed out but the relationship between housing and many other health problems cannot be overstressed. It is therefore, encouraging that many more houses were completed

during the year and the number in course of erection at the end of the year shows a marked increase.

I would like to acknowledge with gratitude the help and understanding I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee. My thanks are also due to members of the staff of the Health Department, medical, nursing and clerical, for their loyal co-operation and to my colleagues in other Departments who have been helpful at all times.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

HENRY TABBUSH,

Medical Officer of Health

Health Department,
Greenwood Avenue,
Langley, Oldbury.

July, 1953.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Name	Situation	Sessions	Accommodation
Oldbury I.W.	Wesley Street, Oldbury	Monday, 2 p.m.	Consulting, Infant Weighing and Wait- ing Rooms
Langley I.W.	"The Hollies," Langley	Wednesday and Friday, 2 p.m.	do.
Warley I.W.	Bleakhouse Rd., Warley	Tuesday and Thursday, 2 p.m.	do.
Oldbury A.N.	Wesley Street, Oldbury	Friday, 2 p.m.	Consulting and Wait- ing Rooms
Langley A.N.	"The Hollies," Langley	Thursday, 2 p.m.	do.
Warley A.N.	Bleakhouse Rd., Warley	Wednesdays, 2 p.m.	do.
School Clinic	Tabernacle Clinic, Oldbury	M.O. and Nurse Daily, 9—9-30 a.m.	Consulting, Treatment and Waiting Rooms
School Clinic	Bleakhouse Rd., Warley	M.O. and Nurse Daily, 9—9-30 a.m.	do.
School Clinic	"The Hollies," Langley	M.O. and Nurse Daily, 9—9-30 a.m.	do.
Dental Clinic, S.M.S.	Tabernacle Clinic, Oldbury	Thursday, Friday and Saturday	do.
Dental Clinic, S.M.S.	Bleakhouse Rd., Warley	Monday and Wednesday	do.
Scabies Clinic	Cleansing Station, Brookfields Rd., Langley	By appointment	Treatment and Wait- ing Rooms
Ophthalmic Clinic	Bleakhouse Rd., Warley	Friday, 10 a.m.	Consulting, Treatment and Waiting Rooms
Sunray Clinic	Bleakhouse Rd., Warley	Wednesday, 10 a.m.	Treatment and Wait- ing Rooms
Sunray Clinic	"The Hollies," Langley	Tuesday, 2 p.m.	do.
Sunray Clinic	Tabernacle Clinic,	Monday, 10 a.m.	do.
Chest Clinic	Chest Clinic, Greenwood Av. Langley	Monday, 11 a.m.—12 noon and 2—4 p.m. Wednesday, 2—4 p.m.	do.

1.—GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	3,304
Population (Registrar-General's Estimate Mid-1952)	53,790
Population (Census 1951)	53,895
Number of inhabited houses	14,670
Rateable Value (1st April, 1952) ...	£229,929 0 0
Sum represented by a penny rate	£890 0 0
General Rate—1951-52	£1 1 6
Unemployment—31st December, 1952:—	
Men and Boys wholly unemployed ...	155
Women and Girls	89
Temporary stoppage:—	
Men and Boys	16
Women and Girls	10

2.—EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

					M.	F.	Total
Live Births	{	Legitimate	...	...	359	361	720
		Illegitimate	...	...	17	10	27
					<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals					376	371	747
					<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Birth-rate per 1,000 of the population					...	...	13.88
Area Comparability-Factor							
(Births)	...	...	0.96	Standardised Birth-rate	...		13.32
Stillbirths	...	...	15	Rate per 1,000 total births			19.68
Deaths	...	...	495	Death-rate (Crude)	...		9.20
Area Comparability-Factor							
(Deaths)	...	...	1.30	Standardised Death-rate..			11.96
					Rate per 1000 Births		
Number of women dying in, or in consequence					(Live and Still)		
of, childbirth was Nil					...	0.00	
Death-rates of Infants under one year:—							
All Infants per 1,000 live births					...	(18)	24.09
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate live							
births					...	(16)	22.22
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate live							
births					...	(2)	74.07
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)					...		82
Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis (all ages)					...		13
Deaths from Measles (all ages)					...		Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)					...		Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)					...		1

3.—BIRTH AND DEATH RATES PER 1,000 TOTAL POPULATION.

	Live Birth	Birth Rates Stillbirth	Death Rate
England and Wales	15.3	0.35	11.3
160 County Boroughs, and Great Towns, including London ...	16.9	0.43	12.1
160 Smaller Towns, population 25,000 to 50,000 (1951 Census)	15.5	0.36	11.2
London Administrative County	17.6	0.34	12.6
OLDBURY	13.32	0.27	11.96

POPULATION.

The Registrar General estimates that 53,790 persons were resident in the Oldbury area at Midsummer, 1952. The “natural increase of population,” that is excess of births over deaths, during the year was 252.

DEATHS.

In 1952, 322 deaths were registered in the Oldbury area. Ten of these deaths were of persons not normally resident in the district, and 183 Oldbury residents died outside the district. The aggregate number of deaths for the year was 495, representing a crude death rate of 9.20 per thousand of the estimated population and a standardised death rate of 11.96 for 1,000 of the population. The corresponding figures for 1951 were 511 total deaths, a crude death rate of 9.50, and a standardised death rate of 12.36.

Of the 495 deaths, 18 were of infants under one year of age, representing an infantile mortality rate of 24.09 per thousand live births. In 1951 there were 19 deaths under one year of age and an infantile mortality rate of 24.51 per thousand live births.

The most frequent causes of deaths, the number of deaths so registered, and the corresponding death rates per thousand of the population were:—

Heart Disease	158	deaths	equivalent	to a death rate of	2.937
Cancer	82	„	„	„	1.524
Vascular Lesions	66	„	„	„	1.226
Bronchitis	26	„	„	„	0.483
Pneumonia	24	„	„	„	0.446
Tuberculosis	14	„	„	„	0.260

Heart Disease occupies first place as primary cause of death.

HEART DISEASE.

Of the 158 deaths recorded as due to heart disease, 120 relate to persons over the age of 65 and only 6 were in respect of persons under 45 years of age.

CANCER.

For the purposes of comparison the following table gives a summary of the deaths from Cancer, and the age distribution of those deaths during the past ten years.

Year	ESTIMATED POPULATION	NUMBER OF DEATHS			Rate per 1000 Pop.	AGE DISTRIBUTION				
		Males	Fe- males	Total		0-15 Years	15-25 Years	25-45 Years	45-65 Years	65 years & over
1942	49,530	30	34	64	1.29	1	..	4	21	38
1943	50,100	48	32	80	1.59	..	..	10	25	45
1944	50,220	32	33	65	1.29	1	1	7	23	33
1945	50,040	42	27	69	1.37	..	..	6	29	33
1946	51,890	47	38	85	1.63	..	1	2	32	50
1947	52,510	62	40	102	1.94	..	..	10	34	58
1948	53,350	42	41	83	1.55	..	..	11	36	36
1949	53,380	45	48	93	1.74	..	..	5	43	45
1950	53,820	49	36	85	1.57	1	..	7	33	45
1951	53,740	39	36	75	1.39	1	..	5	36	33
1952	53,790	46	36	82	1.52	1	1	5	33	42

An analysis of the deaths from malignant disease shows that the site of the cancer causing death was as follows:—

Site	No.	Age Range	Male		No.	Age Range	Female	
			Average Age				Average Age	
I. Carcinoma of Intestinal Tract:								
a. Buccal Cavity	—	—	—		—	—	—	
b. Oesophagus	...	—	—		—	—	—	
c. Stomach	... 5	50-67	60		8	44-81	67	
d. Liver	... 1	69	69		1	63	63	
e. Kidney	... 2	3-56	29		1	52	52	
f. Pancreas	... 1	52	52		—	—	—	
g. Colon	... 4	17-85	64		3	60-71	67	
h. Rectum	... 5	47-78	68		1	63	63	

	Site	No.	Male		No.	Female	
			Age Range	Average Age		Age Range	Average Age
2.	Carcinoma of Female Generative Organs:						
a.	Breast	... —	—	—	6	46-80	64
b.	Uterus	... —	—	—	2	68-72	70
c.	Cervix	... —	—	—	2	47-53	50
d.	Vagina	... —	—	—	1	48	48
e.	Ovary	... —	—	—	5	41-74	60
3.	Carcinoma of Respiratory Tract:						
a.	Lung	... 7	38-78	63	1	67	67
b.	Bronchus	... 9	50-74	61	—	—	—
c.	Trachea	... —	—	—	—	—	—
4.	Carcinoma of Urinary Tract:						
a.	Testis	... 1	54	54	—	—	—
b.	Prostate	... 1	75	75	—	—	—
c.	Bladder	... 1	55	55	1	61	61
5.	Carcinoma of Skin	—	—	—	1	75	75
6.	Carcinoma of Brain	2	48-60	54	—	—	—
7.	Carcinoma of Parotid Gland...	—	—	—	1	83	83
	Miscellaneous	... 7	44-71	57	2	74-78	76
Totals		... 46	3-85	57	36	41-83	64

TUBERCULOSIS.

One of the 14 deaths from tuberculosis was non-pulmonary. The following table shows the sex and age groups in which the 13 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis occurred during 1952. For comparison the table includes the corresponding figures since 1939.

Year	Total	Death Rate	SEX	0-15 Years	15-25 Years	25-35 Years	35-45 Years	45-55 Years	55 years & over
1939	28	·55	Male 17 Female 11	1 ..	1 6	3 2	4 2	2 1	6 ..
1940	39	·77	Male 27 Female 12	.. ..	4 6	8 1	5 3	5 1	6 ..
1941	30	·59	Male 17 Female 13	.. 2	.. 4	6 2	1 3	3 ..	7 2
1942	34	·67	Male 22 Female 12	.. ..	5 6	3 1	4 5	7 ..	3 ..
1943	42	·83	Male 25 Female 17	.. 2	3 7	7 4	6 2	7 1	2 1
1944	26	·52	Male 13 Female 13	.. 1	1 3	4 1	1 4	3 1	4 3
1945	26	·52	Male 16 Female 10	.. ..	.. 3	4 3	2 2	3 2	7 ..
1946	38	·73	Male 23 Female 15	1 2	2 2	7 5	4 1	2 2	7 3
1947	27	·51	Male 20 Female 7	.. ..	4 1	4 3	5 3	2 ..	5 ..
1948	15	·28	Male 8 Female 7	.. ..	3 2	.. 2	1 3	4..	....
1949	28	·52	Male 16 Female 12	1 ..	2 5	1 1	6 2	3 1	3 3
1950	13	·24	Male 8 Female 5	1 ..	.. ..	.. 3	2 1	1 1	4 ..
1951	15	·27	Male 12 Female 3	.. ..	.. ..	3 2	.. ..	3 ..	6 1
1952	13	·24	Male 8 Female 5	.. ..	.. ..	1 ..	3 2	2 ..	2 3

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Diphtheria.

Table IV summarising the work of Immunisation will be found at the end of the Report.

There was one case of Diphtheria notified during the year.

Scarlet Fever.

100 cases were notified compared with 78 in 1951. The disease in the main was mild in character and of relatively little significance. Only complicated cases were admitted to Hospital, 3 in 1952, compared with 5 in 1951.

Pneumonia.

35 cases notified, and 24 deaths reported during the year.

Influenza.

One death in 1952 compared with 14 in 1951.

Erysipelas.

Eight cases were notified during the year as compared with 3 during 1951.

Measles and Whooping Cough.

There were 476 cases of Measles and 182 cases of Whooping Cough notified during the year. No deaths were attributable to these diseases. In spite of health education the public still fail to realise that Measles and Whooping Cough are dangerous diseases especially when the child is under five years of age. During an epidemic, parents could reduce the risk of infection by prohibiting their children going to crowded places such as cinemas, keeping up the child's resistance by regular sleep, regular meals and warm clothing. The longer a child escapes Measles and Whooping Cough the less the danger and every effort should be made to keep other children away from the infected child.

Meningococcal Infection.

Two cases were notified and there were no deaths.

Infantile Diarrhoea.

One death was recorded from this disease during 1952.

Tuberculosis.

The table below shows the number of notifications of Pulmonary Tuberculosis during the years 1943 to 1952.

Notification of Pulmonary Tuberculosis—New Cases

Year	Total	SEX		0-15 Years	15-25 Years	25-35 Years	35-45 Years	45-55 Years	55 Years & over
1943	77	Male	44	3	7	11	9	10	4
		Female	33	4	13	7	3	4	2
1944	61	Male	37	1	10	10	6	4	6
		Female	24	2	10	4	5	2	1
1945	50	Male	32	1	6	11	7	5	2
		Female	18	2	7	5	3	1	..
1946	81	Male	54	2	19	13	5	10	5
		Female	27	4	11	6	3	2	1
1947	55	Male	32	5	7	3	9	3	5
		Female	23	4	10	2	5	..	2
1948	59	Male	35	4	15	4	6	2	4
		Female	24	6	7	3	3	2	3
1949	65	Male	44	6	7	5	8	7	11
		Female	21	1	6	6	7	1	..
1950	56	Male	38	1	9	11	6	7	4
		Female	18	4	4	6	4	..	..
1951	70	Male	44	5	8	10	3	12	6
		Female	26	6	11	2	2	2	3
1952	54	Male	28	3	3	5	6	9	2
		Female	26	2	6	6	6	3	3

12 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis (8 males and 4 females) were notified in 1952.

Cases on the register at the end of the year were as follows:—

		Male	Female
Pulmonary	...	223	157
Non-Pulmonary	...	44	27

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Housing.

Increased housing accommodation is still an urgent necessity in the Borough. Re-housing of tuberculosis cases continues to merit top priority, but families living in overcrowded or insanitary accommodation should also be given due consideration.

The Housing Manager informs me that he received 431 new applications during the year, divisible into the following groups:—

290 with no children
82 with 1 child
31 with 2 children
14 with 3 children
7 with 4 children
4 with 5 children
3 with 6 children

Total applications on Housing Register at 31.12.52 were:—

Sub-Tenants	...	...	...	2,788
Tenants	...	...	...	617

The Borough Surveyor has supplied the following figures:—

Number of Permanent houses completed by the Corporation	138
Number of houses completed by private contractors	... 14
Number of houses completed by Smethwick Corporation	... 28
Number of Municipal houses in course of erection at 31.12.52	250

Water Supply.

114 houses in the area are supplied with water from the mains to standpipes or taps in yards serving two or more houses. The approximate population so served is 421. The remaining houses and population in the area receive water from mains direct to individual houses.

Specimen results of analysis by the County Analyst are as follows:—

				Zone 1.	Zone 2.	Zone 3.
Physical Characters	...	...	...	Clear	Clear	Clear
Odour	...	...	...	None	Very slight	None
Deposit	...	...	...	None	None	None
pH.	...	...	...	7.6	7.2	6.9

Chemical Examination.

Solids in suspension (Dried at 100°C.)	...	...	...	None	None	None
Solids in solution (Dried at 180°C.)	...	...	...	34	22	24
Solids in solution. After ignition	...	...	...	31	20	22
Chlorides calculated as common salt	...	...	...	5.3	6.4	6.2
Hardness, permanent...	...	...	...	11	6	6
Hardness, temporary	...	...	...	13	8	8
Hardness, total	...	...	...	24	14	14
Free and Saline Ammonia	...	...	...	0.0002	0.0002	0.0004
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	0.0008	0.0002	0.0002
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)	...	...	...	0.62	0.27	0.27
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27°C. (N/80 Permanganate)	...	...	...	0.013	Nil	0.001
Toxic Metals	...	...	...	None detected	None detected	None detected
Total Residual Chlorine	...	...	...	None	0.003	0.001

Note.—To convert the above parts per 100,000 to grains per gallon, multiply by 0.7.

Bacteriological Examination.

Probable number of coliform bacilli:—

In two days at 37°C.	...	Nil per 100 m.l.	Nil per 100 m.l.	Nil per 100 m.l.
Fæcal Coli Type	...	Nil per 100 m.l.	Nil per 100 m.l.	Nil per 100 m.l.

SERVICES ADMINISTERED ON BEHALF OF THE WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Chief Statistics, 1952.

Registrar General's figures.

Total number of live births during the year 747
 Total number of stillbirths during the year 15
 Live birth rate 13.88 per thousand population. (Standardised birth-rate 13.32).
 Stillbirth rate 19.68 per thousand live and stillbirths.
 Illegitimate live births represent 3.61 per cent. of the total live births in the area.
 Infant mortality. 18 children died under the age of one year. This represents an Infantile Mortality rate of 24.09 per thousand live births.

Births.

The total of 747 live births is divisible into 376 boys and 371 girls, giving a live birth rate of 13.88 per thousand estimated population.

Of the 747 live births, 27 were illegitimate (17 boys and 10 girls). One illegitimate stillbirth was registered.

The Ward distribution of the births registered in the Borough is shown in the table below. For comparison the figures for the two previous years are given.

	1950		1951		1952
Central Ward ...	63	...	53	...	44
Broadwell Ward ...	52	...	35	...	39
Brandhall Ward ...	55	...	44	...	39
Bristnall Ward ...	72	...	73	...	60
Rounds Green Ward	44	...	59	...	18
Langley Ward ...	80	...	78	...	59
Warley Ward ...	100	...	113	...	92
	<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
Totals ...	466	...	455	...	351
	<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>

It should be noted that the figures for the Warley Ward include births in the Oakdene Nursing Home. Some of these births are to parents resident in other parts of Oldbury and also to parents residing outside the Borough.

Stillbirths.

There were 15 stillbirths registered during 1952 giving a still-birth rate of 19.68 per thousand live and stillbirths, or 0.27 stillbirths per thousand of the population, as compared with 1951, when the number of stillbirths was 14; the stillbirth rate 17.74 per thousand live and stillbirths, or 0.26 stillbirths per thousand population.

Illegitimate Live Births.

The Illegitimate Live Birth Rate shows a fall on the figure for the previous year.

The full figures for the last thirteen years are as follows:—

Year	Number	Rate per 1,000 Population	% of Total Live Births
1952	27	.50	3.61
1951	28	.52	3.54
1950	38	.70	4.51
1949	44	.824	5.26
1948	30	.562	3.26
1947	36	.685	3.43
1946	53	1.023	5.14
1945	54	1.079	5.21
1944	28	.557	2.52
1943	31	.618	2.73
1942	23	.469	2.24
1941	18	.364	2.08
1940	13	.266	1.37

Premature Births.

Notification of birth cards provide information about babies weighing 5½-lbs. or less at birth.

BIRTHS AT HOME		BIRTH WEIGHT					BIRTHS IN PRIVATE NURSING HOMES													
Preme- ture still- births	Premature live births					Trans- ferred to hospital	Preme- ture still- births	Premature live births												
	Nursed entirely at home							Nursed entirely in nursing homes												
	Died in first 24 hrs.	Died on 2nd to 7th day	Died on 8th to 28th day	Sur- vived 28 days	Total			Died in first 24 hrs.	Died on 2nd to 7th day	Died on 8th to 28th day	Sur- vived 28 days	Total								
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	1	—	—	12	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	1	—	11	12	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Infantile Mortality.

There were 18 deaths of infants under one year of age and 11 of these deaths occurred within the first four weeks of life. This is equivalent to an Infant Mortality rate of 24.09 per thousand live births.

The corresponding figures for the previous eleven years are:—

1941	...	58	deaths or 70.47 per thousand live births.		
1942	...	46	„ or 46.51	„	„
1943	...	45	„ or 41.02	„	„
1944	...	40	„ or 37.18	„	„
1945	...	34	„ or 33.59	„	„
1946	...	36	„ or 35.80	„	„
1947	...	38	„ or 36.22	„	„
1948	...	38	„ or 41.34	„	„
1949	...	30	„ or 34.12	„	„
1950	...	25	„ or 30.30	„	„
1951	...	19	„ or 24.51	„	„

An analysis of the causes of death of infants will be found in the following table:—

Infant Mortality during the Year 1952
Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various Ages under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3 months and under 6 months	6 months and under 9 months	9 months and under 12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year
Prematurity	4	1	—	—	5	1	—	—	—	6
Pneumonia	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	2	—	4
Atelectasis	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Hydrocephalus	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Marasmus	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
Asphyxia	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Spina Bifida	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Ac. Gastro Enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Coarctation of Aorta	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Totals ..	6	2	1	2	11	1	2	3	1	18

Maternal Mortality.

There were no deaths during 1952.

Midwives Act, 1936.

An indication of the work undertaken by the Midwives during the year can be obtained from the following table:—

Confinements as Midwife	...	...	286
Confinements as Maternity Nurse	...	...	45
Nursings as Midwife	...	...	4,422
Nursings as Maternity Nurse	...	...	1,669
Ante-Natal Visits	...	...	2,313
Post-Natal Visits	...	...	24

Gas and Air Analgesia.

This service was made available to all expectant mothers from May, 1948, and the response, though increasing, is still disappointing, as only 142 cases availed themselves of the opportunity up to the end of the year.

Notifications Received from Midwives.

The following notifications were received from midwives practising in the Borough:—

Sending for medical aid	...	...	46
Attendance at stillbirths	...	...	3
Artificial feeding	...	...	31
Liability to be a source of infection	...	...	6
Death of mother and/or child	...	...	1
Laying out	...	...	1

Puerperal Pyrexia.

Three cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified to the Department. Every assistance is given by Hospitals in surrounding areas in dealing with such cases.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

There were no cases during the year.

MEDICAL AID.

Medical Aid was required by Midwives on 46 occasions up to the end of the year and a summary of the requests received is set out on opposite page.

Mother—

Torn perineum	...	...	...	16
Prolonged labour	...	...	...	2
Rise of temperature	...	...	...	2
Episiotomy	...	...	...	1
Abnormal presentation	...	...	...	4
Premature labour	...	...	...	2
Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	2
Stillbirth	...	...	...	1
Miscarriage	...	...	...	1
Retained membrane	...	...	...	2
Other causes	...	...	...	2
Total				35

Child—

Prematurity	...	...	...	2
Discharging eye	...	...	...	4
Jaundice	...	...	...	2
Cephalhæmatoma	...	...	...	1
Swollen hand	...	...	...	1
Cyanosis	...	...	...	1
Total				11

Institutional Accommodation for Maternity Cases.

The total number of births notified as having occurred in Hospitals, etc., outside the Borough was 438.

	Living.	Stillborn.
Hallam Hospital, West Bromwich	323	7
Poplars Nursing Home, Smethwick	30	—
Birmingham Maternity Hospital	20	2
Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Selly Oak	8	—
Birmingham General Hospital	2	—
St. Chad's Hospital	33	2
Sorrento Maternity Hospital...	1	—
Dudley Road Hospital	5	—
All Saints' Hospital	1	—
Wordsley Hospital	1	—
Lordswood Maternity Hospital	2	—
Other private addresses	1	—
Totals	427	11

Ante-Natal Clinics.

The attendances at the respective clinics were as follows:—

	OLDBURY		LANGLEY		WARLEY		TOTALS	
	1952	1951	1952	1951	1952	1951	1952	1951
Number of Sessions	51	52	51	52	27	29	129	133
New Ante-Natal Cases	86	111	107	121	46	68	239	300
Total attendances	453	673	593	732	207	324	1253	1729
Average per Session	8.8	14.9	11.6	14.0	7.66	11.1	9.7	13.0

The number of 239 new cases is 31.3 per cent. of the total registered births for the district.

Routine blood samples for the investigation of the Rhesus Factor, Wasserman Reaction and Hæmoglobin estimation are now taken at the Ante-Natal Clinics, and the results so far obtained undoubtedly justify the continuance of this procedure. This service is available to the patients of General Practitioners on request.

Post-Natal Clinics.

Attendances are, on the whole, disappointing, but this is now largely due to the obligation of Doctors under the National Health Service Act, 1946, to carry out routine post-natal examinations on their Maternity cases.

Work of the Health Visitors.

During the year 14,782 visits were made to homes in the district and 516 sessions were taken up by attendance at Ante-Natal and Infant Welfare Centres.

The work undertaken by the Health Visitors can be summarised as follows:—

		First Visits	Revisits	Total
Under 1 year ...	...	733	3,454	4,187
1 — 2 years ...	...	5	2,593	2,598
2 — 5 years ...	...	12	5,851	5,863
Expectant mothers ...	...	195	60	255
Child life protection and adoption ...	...	6	14	20
Other ...	...	476	96	571

The number of ineffective visits during the year was 1,288.

Infant Welfare Clinics.

The three clinics at Langley, Oldbury and Warley continued to serve the Borough throughout the year. Two sessions per week were held at Langley and Warley, and one session per week at Oldbury.

582 babies under the age of 1 year attended the Clinics for the first time. This represents 79.2% of the registered live births. 77 children between the age of 1 and 5 years attended the Clinics for the first time during the year.

The following table gives particulars of attendances at the three Infant Welfare Clinics.

CLINIC	Number Sessions.		NO. OF ATTENDANCES				SEEN BY DOCTOR.	
			Under 1.		Over 1.			
	1952	1951	1952	1951	1952	1951	1952	1951
Oldbury	49	49	1859	1830	777	951	590	718
Langley	104	103	4794	4663	2853	2182	1671	1227
Warley	101	100	3677	3479	2563	2338	1315	1037
Totals ..	254	252	10330	9972	6193	5471	3576	2982

The statistics for the Infant Welfare Clinics compare favourably with those of the previous year.

Voluntary Committees.

A Voluntary Committee operates at each Infant Welfare Clinic and they render valuable social and clerical service to the community. Their efforts in maintaining the happy relationship at our

clinics and successfully arranging social functions in the form of outings, sales of work and competitions are very much appreciated.

Milk Assistance Scheme.

There is a scheme in operation whereby free milk is supplied to expectant and nursing mothers and infants up to five years of age who attend the Ante-Natal and Welfare Clinics and for whom a supply of milk is recommended by the Medical Officer. No applications were received during the year.

Dried milk and other foods were sold at the three Welfare Clinics to the value of £1,870 7s. 7d.

Medical Inspection of Pre-School Children between 3 and 5 years of age.

The following is a summary of the findings of medical inspections during 1952:—

Number of children examined—420.

Found to be of good nutrition	A	...	383
Found to be of fair nutrition	B	...	36
Found to be of poor nutrition	C	...	1
Total			420

Defects found and referred for treatment:—

Skin	...	...	9	Cervical Glands	...	...	—
Eye Defects	...	...	11	Heart and Circulation	...	...	—
Nose and Throat	...	...	7	Lung Defect	...	...	1
Ear Defect	...	...	6	Developmental	...	...	4
Defective Speech	...	...	—	Orthopædic	...	...	57
Other Defects and Diseases	1			Nervous System	...	...	—

Ophthalmic Treatment.

Those children attending the Welfare Clinics noted to be suffering from defective vision or other eye conditions are sent to Mr. Guy F. G. Siggins, the Ophthalmic Specialist at the School Clinic.

During 1952, 51 cases attended and the following conditions were found to have been present in the 14 new cases:—

Strabismus	...	...	...	6
Dislocation of lens	...	...	...	1
Paralytic squint	...	...	...	1
No defects found	...	...	...	6

MOAT ROAD DAY NURSERY.

The Day Nursery fills a very real need in the Borough. The majority of children in attendance are admitted on social grounds and ordinarily would be deprived of normal home life.

The following table shows the attendance during 1952.

	Number of Attendances		Average Attendances	
	Weekday		Weekday	
	Under 2 years	Over 2 years	Under 2 years	Over 2 years
January	89	405	3·87	18·26
February	94	378	4·47	18·00
March	120	383	5·71	18·24
April	108	328	5·40	16·40
May	145	434	6·59	19·72
June	79	370	4·16	19·47
July	71	458	3·09	19·91
August	6	419	0·31	22·05
September	21	346	0·95	15·73
October	42	512	1·82	22·26
November	24	486	1·20	24·30
December	18	343	0·90	17·15
Totals ..	817	4862	3·23	19·23

Home Nursing.

At the end of the year the equivalent whole-time nursing staff was $4\frac{1}{2}$. During the year 444 cases were undertaken and 17,368 visits were paid as compared with 347 cases of 14,174 visits during 1951.

Home Helps.

This service is now organised by the local branch of the Women's Voluntary Service and during the year domestic help was provided in 27 maternity cases, 2 tuberculosis cases and 48 domestic cases. There were 10 part-time Home Helps employed at the end of the year.

Vaccination.

The following table gives details of the number of primary vaccinations carried out during the past four years:—

Year	AGE GROUP				Clinic	General Practitioner	Total
	Under 1 year	1-4 years	5-14 years	15 years & over			
1949	118	75	8	7	20	188	208
1950	191	15	5	13	42	182	224
1951	245	26	4	8	127	156	283
1952	219	11	4	8	121	121	242

Immunisation.

In all cases parents are given the choice of having their children immunised and vaccinated either by their family doctor or at the clinic. Where permission has been given for the Health Department to carry out these procedures, it is a fairly easy matter for us to ensure that the injections are given. Should the parent decide that she will have her child immunised or vaccinated by her family doctor, no further action can be taken by the department to ensure that it is carried out. Unless there is some closer integration between the activities of general practitioners and Health Authorities there is a danger that this division of responsibility may lead to an increase in the number of children who have not been protected against diphtheria and smallpox.

In all 717 children were immunised in 1952, 609 were under five years of age and 108 were between 5 and 15 years of age. The percentage of the estimated child population immunised at 31st December, 1952, is 52.62 under 5 years and 88.94 between 5 and 15 years. 667 re-inforcing injections were given mainly to children aged 5 years.

Borough Ambulance Service.

During the year 7,285 ordinary cases, 476 accident cases and 320 maternity cases were transported. The total mileage covered was 58,043.

The vehicles include 2 Austin "Welfarer" Ambulances, 1 Austin "Sheerline" and 1 Austin Sitting Case Ambulance.

The accident cases can be divided into:—

191	Road accidents
108	Works ,,
143	Home ,,
34	School ,,

Personnel at the Ambulance Station are on duty from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on call on rota from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. The number of cases transported between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. throughout the year was 11,393 and 849 between 6 p.m. and 8 a.m.

			AGE DISTRIBUTION (YEARS)											WARD DISTRIBUTION							
			TOTALS	Under 1 year	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 plus	Central	Broadwell	Brandball	Rounds Green	Langley	Warley	Bristnall
PULMONARY	MALE	No. on Register at 1-1-52 ...	224	—	9	10	9	30	29	46	44	35	7	5	27	23	26	18	43	59	28
		Primary Notifications ...	28			2	1		3	5	6	9	2		3	4	2	2	6	5	6
		Heard of otherwise (Death Returns)	—																		
		Restored to Register...	—																		
		Inward Transfers ...	5		2	1				1		1					3			1	1
		Deletions																			
	FEMALE	Died ...	13		1		1			2	4	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	6	1
		Recovered ...	8		1		1	2		2	2						1	1	3	1	2
		Diagnosis not confirmed ...	1									1			1						
		Outward Transfers ...	12					2	3	3	2	2				2	5	1	2	1	1
		No. on Register at 31-12-52 ...	223	—	9	13	8	26	29	45	42	40	7	4	28	24	24	17	42	57	31
		No. on Register at 1-1-52 ...	154	—	8	10	10	31	31	30	21	9	3	1	17	14	20	16	23	35	29
FEMALE	Primary Notifications ...	26		1		1	2	4	6	6	3	2	1	4	4	4	3	1	6	4	
	Heard of otherwise (Death Returns)	—																			
	Restored to Register...	—																			
	Inward Transfers ...	—																			
	Deletions																				
	Died ...	6								2	1	2	1	1		1		1	1	2	
FEMALE	Recovered ...	5			1			2	1	1					2	1			1	1	
	Diagnosis not confirmed ...	1				1															
	Outward Transfers ...	11				3	4	2	1	1				2		3	1	1	2	2	
	No. on Register at 31-12-52 ...	157	—	9	9	7	29	31	34	23	11	3	1	18	16	19	18	22	37	27	
	No. on Register at 1-1-52 ...	46	1	13	10	5	3	3	5	5	1	—	—	3	3	9	5	11	7	8	
	MALE	Primary Notifications ...	8		2			1	1	2	1			1					3	2	3
Heard of otherwise (Death Returns)		—																			
Restored to Register...		—																			
Inward Transfers ...		—																			
Deletions																					
Died ...		3			1			1		1								2		1	
FEMALE	Recovered ...	3		2	1										1	1	1				
	Diagnosis not confirmed ...	—																			
	Outward Transfers ...	4				2		1	1								1	1	1	1	
	No. on Register at 1-1-52 ...	44	1	13	8	3	4	2	6	5	1	—	1	3	2	8	3	11	8	9	
	No. on Register at 31-12-52 ...	36	—	6	5	3	1	8	5	3	2	2	1	4	5	7	2	7	5	6	
	Primary Notifications ...	4			1			2	1					1				1	1	1	
FEMALE	Heard of otherwise (Death Returns)	—																1	1		
	Restored to Register...	—																			
	Inward Transfers ...	—																			
	Deletions																				
	Died ...	2			1								1				1		1	1	
	Recovered ...	5		2					2	1									2		
FEMALE	Diagnosis not confirmed ...	1		1										1							
	Outward Transfers ...	5			1	2	1	1						2	1			1		1	
	No. on Register at 31-12-52 ...	27	—	3	4	1	—	9	4	2	2	2	—	2	4	5	1	7	3	5	

AGE DISTRIBUTION—All ages are those obtaining at date of Primary Notification.

DEATHS—All the deaths removed from Register have not actually occurred during 1952.

TABLE 1.—Corrected Notifications of Infectious Diseases during 1952

Notifiable Disease	Cases Notified in Whole District												Total Cases Notified in each Ward						Total cases re-moved to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital of Persons belonging to the District
	At Ages—Years												Rounds Green							
	Under 1	1 and under 2	2 and under 3	3 and under 4	4 and under 5	5 and under 10	10 and under 15	15 and under 20	20 and under 35	35 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards	Central	Broadwell	Brandhall	Langley	Warley	Bristnall		
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	1	4	7	7	58	16	4	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	16	38	38	42	41	225	47	12	13	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	29	46	7
Whooping Cough	11	22	20	28	23	76	...	3	...	2	14	3	...	...	...	...	34	29	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	1	...	2	1	...	5	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	9	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	1	...	...	...	2	3	1	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ac. Polio—Paralytic	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...
“ “ —Non-Paralytic...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Food poisoning	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Totals	27	63	62	79	72	366	66	22	26	13	18	4	45	42	169	37	298	95	818	
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

TABLE II. CAUSES OF DEATH, 1952.

Cause of Death	Detailed List No.—	All ages			AGE GROUPS																	WARDS					
		TOTAL	M	F	0—4 months	4—12 months	1—5 years	5—10 years	10—15 years	15—20 years	20—25 years	25—35 years	35—45 years	45—55 years	55—65 years	65—75 years	75—85 years	85 and over	Central	Broadwell	Brandhall	Rounds Green	Langley	Warley	Bristnall		
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	001—008	13	8	5	1	5	2	4	1	1	1	2	2	2	5		
2. „ other ...	010—019	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....		
3. Syphilitic disease ...	020—029	2	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1
4. Diphtheria ...	055	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
5. Whooping cough ...	056	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
6. Meningococcal infections ...	057	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
7. Acute poliomyelitis ...	080	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
8. Measles ...	085	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
9. Other infective & parasitic diseases ...	Rest of 001—138	2	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1	.....	.....	
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	151	13	5	8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	2	2	6	2	.....	3	1	1	1	2	3
11. „ „ lung, bronchus	162, 163	17	16	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	2	6	6	2	.....	2	2	2	2	5	4
12. „ „ breast	170	6	.....	6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	3	1	.....	2	1	1	2	.....	.....	
13. „ „ uterus	171—174	4	.....	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	3	.....	.....	
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	Rest of 140-203, 205	42	25	17	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	3	9	8	12	7	1	9	4	7	8	5	4
15. Leukæmia, aleukæmia ...	204	3	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	1	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	
16. Diabetes ...	260	5	3	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	2	1	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	3	.....		
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	330—334	66	36	30	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	9	4	25	20	5	10	7	13	7	6	14
18. Coronary disease, angina ...	420	52	32	20	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	11	24	12	1	9	8	6	4	5	11
19. Hypertension with heart disease ...	440—443	10	3	7	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	3	3	3	.....	2	.....	1	1	2	2
20. Other heart disease ...	Rest of 410—443	96	46	50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1	4	6	7	20	44	13	14	20	9	16	19	9
21. „ circulatory disease ...	444—468	15	8	7	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	3	5	2	3	1	1	3	.....	3	4
22. Influenza ...	480—483	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
23. Pneumonia ...	490—493	24	13	11	1	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	7	3	3	5	1	3	3	1	1	7	2
24. Bronchitis ...	500—502	26	12	14	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	4	8	9	3	3	5	2	3	6	4
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ...	470—475, 510—527	12	8	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	3	2	2	3	1	2	1	1	2	3
26. Ulcer of stomach & duodenum ...	540—541	6	5	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	3	1	.....	.....	2	2	1	1	.....	.....	
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	543, 571, 572, 764	5	2	3	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	2	.....	.....	
28. Nephritis and nephrosis ...	590—594	6	4	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	1	2	1	1	.....	.....	1	.....	1	2	.....	2
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	610	6	6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	3	1	1	.....	1	.....	1	2
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	640—689	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
31. Congenital malformations ...	750—759	4	2	2	2	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases...	Rest of 001—795	38	17	21	9	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	2	1	5	2	13	3	10	5	3	3	8	6
33. Motor vehicle accidents ...	E810—835	4	3	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1	1	1	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	2	.....	1	.....		
34. All other accidents ...	E800—802, E840—963	13	6	7	.....	1	.....	1	1	1	.....	1	1	2	1	.....	3	1	3	.....	4	.....	4	2
35. Suicide ...	E963, 970—979	3	2	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	2	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	
36. Homicide and operations of war ...	E964, 965, 980—999	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
TOTALS ...		495	267	228	12	6	1	2	2	3	1	9	23	66	72	135	130	33	80	63	63	58	83	68	80		

TABLE III.

Birth Rate, Death Rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the year 1952

	RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL POPULATION		ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.							RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS		
	Live Births	Still-births	All Causes	Enteric Fever	Small-pox	Tuberculosis	Ac. Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under Two years)	Total Deaths under One year
England and Wales..	15.3	0.35	11.3	0.00	0.00	0.24	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.04	1.1	27.6
160 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London) ..	16.9	0.43	12.1	0.00	..	0.28	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.04	1.3	31.2
160 Smaller Towns (estimated Population 25,000 to 50,000, Census, 1951)	15.5	0.36	11.2	0.00	..	0.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.5	25.8
London Administrative County ..	17.6	0.34	12.6	0.00	..	0.31	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.7	23.8
Oldbury ..	13.32	0.27	11.96	0.00	..	0.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	1.33	24.09

MATERNAL MORTALITY

International List No. and cause		Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) births	
		England & Wales	Oldbury
A115	Sepsis of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	..	0.09
A116	Abortion with toxæmia	..	0.02
A116	Other toxæmias of pregnancy and the puerperium	..	0.21
A117	Hæmorrhage of pregnancy and childbirth	..	0.09
A118	Abortion without mention of sepsis or toxæmia	..	0.04
A119	Abortion with sepsis	..	0.07
A120	Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	..	0.20
			0.00

TABLE IV.—DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION at 31st December, 1952.

Year of Birth	YEAR OF IMMUNISATION																	Totals in Year of Birth	Age at 31-12-52 Years	Totals in Age Groups
	1938	1939	Before 1940	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	Before 1947	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952			
Column No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
52																	34	34	0— 1	2,276
51																50	414	464	1— 2	
1950															8	446	67	521	2— 3	
49														82	332	117	22	553	3— 4	
48													70	539	50	15	30	704	4— 5	
47												17	550	114	21	18	29	749	5— 6	7,649
46										15	—	529	120	63	37	19	74	857	6— 7	
45									6	513	—	107	30	83	23	38	6	806	7— 8	
44								12	522	173	10	21	25	43	45	11	2	864	8— 9	
43							6	367	179	58	29	14	26	60	11	2	2	754	9—10	
42						18	348	159	52	44	64	36	20	14	3	4	2	764	10—11	7,649
41					5	200	155	45	32	24	93	51	6	1	4	1	1	618	11—12	
1940				8	142	195	100	54	30	31	96	69	—	5	2	—	1	733	12—13	
39		2	3	44	120	145	94	61	30	14	118	57	3	—	—	—	—	691	13—14	
38	2	30	14	34	117	191	136	50	18	28	133	52	2	5	1	—	—	813	14—15	
TOTALS	2	32	17	86	384	749	839	748	869	900	543	953	852	1,009	537	721	684	9,925	—	9,925

NOTE.—Columns 3 and 11. These figures relate to children whose parents stated at surveys held in 1940 and 1947, that “ the children had already been immunised.”

TABLE V.—VITAL STATISTICS SINCE 1891

YEARS	POPULATION (R G's Mid. Year Est.)	RATES PER 1,000 EST. POPULATION								Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live Births)		Maternal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live and Still Births)
		LIVE BIRTH		STILL BIRTH		CRUDE DEATH		PHTHISIS DEATHS		Oldbury	E.&W.	
		Oldbury	E. & W.	Old- bury	E.&W.	Oldbury	E.&W.	No.	Rate			
1891—1895	21,331	40.82	30.5			21.33	18.7	89	.8344	201.8	151	
1896—1900	25,375	37.82	29.3			16.80	17.7	94	.7411	216.5	156	
1901—1905	25,798	36.28	28.2			17.45	16.0	77	.5969	175.0	138	
1906—1910	28,580	35.75	26.3			17.04	14.7	118	.8257	147.1	117	
1911—1915	33,856	30.12	23.6			15.47	14.3	115	.6793	137.6	110	
1916—1920	38,277	23.47	20.1			12.77	14.4	162	.8464	104.1	90	
1921	37,700	26.4	22.4			11.5	12.1	31	.8222	101.0	83	7.04
2	38,390	24.8	20.6			11.6	12.9	31	.8074	69.0	77	3.15
3	39,970	23.5	19.7			11.1	11.6	21	.5388	78.0	69	3.27
4	40,050	21.9	18.8			9.5	12.2	30	.7490	68.0	75	4.56
5	40,740	22.1	18.3			10.8	12.2	34	.8344	70.0	75	4.43
6	42,080	20.4	17.8			9.7	11.6	27	.6415	55.8	70	1.16
7	43,120	19.4	16.7			11.2	12.3	22	.5102	88.4	69	2.38
8	33,760	21.7	16.7			11.1	11.7	29	.8589	67.8	65	3.64
9	34,190	21.7	16.3			12.6	13.4	19	.5557	99.7	74	4.04
1930	35,000	21.5	16.3	0.83	0.69	10.8	11.4	36	1.0285	43.9	60	7.80
1	36,370	20.8	15.8	0.52	0.67	11.1	12.3	21	.5773	68.6	66	3.86
2	37,660	19.4	15.3	0.52	0.66	10.1	12.0	21	.5576	91.5	65	7.87
3	39,560	17.4	14.4	0.63	0.62	10.5	12.3	23	.5813	89.7	64	2.83
4	40,720	19.2	14.8	0.93	0.62	10.4	11.8	29	.7121	64.0	59	2.43
5	41,900	18.9	14.7	0.83	0.62	9.7	11.7	31	.7398	65.6	57	2.40
6	42,990	19.6	14.8	0.81	0.61	10.28	12.1	35	.8141	55.6	59	0.00
7	44,450	18.94	14.9	1.12	0.60	11.09	12.4	25	.5624	65.32	58	2.24
8	45,450	19.88	15.1	0.79	0.60	10.42	11.6	30	.6600	56.41	53	3.19
9	47,000	18.51	15.0	0.74	0.59	9.96	12.1	28	.5956	64.59	50	3.31
1940	48,700	18.74	14.6	0.76	0.55	11.17	14.3	39	.8008	49.34	55	4.20
1	49,390	16.94	14.2	0.58	0.51	9.98	12.9	30	.6074	70.47	59	1.15
2	49,530	19.97	15.8	0.76	0.54	9.63	11.6	34	.6864	46.51	49	2.92
3	50,100	21.89	16.5	0.79	0.51	9.84	12.1	42	.8382	41.02	49	1.84
4	50,220	21.42	17.6	0.65	0.50	8.86	11.6	26	.5176	37.18	46	2.70
5	50,040	20.22	16.1	0.47	0.46	9.03	11.4	26	.5194	33.59	46	1.93
6	51,890	19.32	19.1	0.52	0.53	9.55	11.5	38	.7322	35.89	43	0.00
7	52,510	19.97	20.5	0.55	0.50	9.54	12.0	27	.5141	36.22	41	2.78
8	53,350	17.22	17.9	0.24	0.42	8.90	10.8	15	.2811	41.34	34	2.14
9	53,380	16.46	16.7	0.31	0.39	10.02	11.7	28	.5245	34.12	32	2.23
1950	53,820	15.32	15.8	0.31	0.37	9.66	11.6	13	.2415	30.30	29.8	1.18
1951	53,740	14.42	15.5	0.26	0.36	9.50	12.5	15	.2791	24.51	29.6	1.26
2	53,790	13.88	15.3	0.27	0.35	9.20	11.3	13	.2416	24.09	27.6	0.00

BOROUGH OF OLDBURY

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Chief Sanitary Inspector

and

Cleansing Superintendent

for the

Year ended 31st December, 1952.

E. HARROLD, F.S.I.A., M.Inst.P.C.

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent

BOROUGH OF OLDBURY.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee of the Borough of Oldbury.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for 1952.

Housing and Overcrowding.

There are approximately 2,700 sub-tenants and overcrowded families on the live register of applicants for municipal houses, an increase over the previous year.

The number of new houses erected in the Borough during the year was 180 (138 by the Local Authority). This is a welcome improvement on the previous year but insufficient to overcome the increased need for houses during the year.

Housing Act, 1936.

Repairs.

This work has been limited to the Nuisance Sections of the Public Health Act, 1936, as with the high cost of repairs and the difficulty in assessing reasonable expense operations under the repairs section of the Housing Act presents many difficulties, especially as regards the class of house mostly in need of repairs; i.e. the lower rented house, with numerous sanitary defects and without amenity provisions.

Demolition Orders—Section 11 and 13.

Demolition Orders were made in respect of nine houses during the year, and a similar number of unfit houses were demolished.

Closing Orders—Section 12.

There were no Closing Orders made in respect of separate tenements during the year.

Overcrowding.

The number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year was 17 out of 88 investigated, 30 of which were reported upon to the Health Committee.

Housing Act, 1949.

No application was received for an improvement grant under the above Act,

Sanitary Accommodation.

One isolated cottage without an efficient drainage system has been demolished during the year and one small factory, inaccessible to a public sewer, has been provided with a pail closet. The following table summarises the present position:—

No. of dwelling houses connected to a public sewer...	14,658
No. of dwelling houses with pail closets	10
No. of dwelling houses with cess-pools	2
No. of lock-up shops with cess-pools	1
No. of factories with pail closets	1
No. of factories with cess-pools	1

Water Supply.

The whole of the Borough continues to be supplied with water by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company. The water is chlorinated but not softened.

No new sources of supply have been acquired during the year, and the supply has been satisfactory in quality and quantity. There is no liability to plumbo-solvency, twelve samples taken during the year all being free from any detectable quantities of lead.

Certain extensions to mains have been carried out during the year in connection with new housing estates.

23 samples of drinking water were submitted to the Borough Analyst and Public Health Laboratory Service during the year for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis, all with satisfactory results.

Rivers and Streams.

Complaints were received during the year from adjoining districts of serious pollution of a brook course fed by canal water from an "arm" in the Rood End area. Extensive investigations were made by Inspectors of the Department and several series of samples were taken of canal water and water from the "feeder" (water course) both for chemical analysis and bacteriological examination. Although pollution was detected, the investigations and sampling, extending over a considerable length of canal and to industrial premises abutting thereon, failed to confirm the complaints of, or to reveal any source of possible contamination by, sewage.

One instance of a brook being polluted from oil discharged into the Corporation storm sewer has been abated by the cleaning out of the settling chambers in an interceptor.

Drainage and Sewerage.

No new works of sewerage and sewage disposal have been carried out during the year and sewage from premises in the Borough continues to be dealt with by the Council's Sewage Works, The Upper Stour Valley Main Drainage Board, The Tame and Rea Drainage Board and West Bromwich Corporation (five premises only).

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.

There is only one dairy farm, registered by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, in the Borough, and five registered dairies (excluding producers). There were 119 registered distributors retailing milk in the Borough at the end of the year.

There are two licensed pasteurising plants in the Borough (both Holder method) and close supervision was again exercised during the year under review. The following additions and improvements were effected at these two dairies during the year:—

One new oil-fired boiler provided to replace former coke-fired boiler, for steam raising.

One additional 50-gallon holding tank added to three existing tanks at one dairy, complete with recording and indicating thermometers.

Low-temperature recorder fitted to cooler in each dairy.

107 samples were taken from these two plants during the year. All the samples passed the Methylene Blue Test when so examined (i.e. 95 samples) and all 107 passed the Phosphatase Test.

144 samples of milk in all were taken for bacteriological examination and of these only one was unsatisfactory. This sample of Tuberculin Tested Milk (Pasteurised) failed the phosphatase test due to raw milk having been added. A caution was given to the firm in question (outside the Borough).

59 washed milk bottles were taken for cleanliness tests, 37 of which were satisfactory and 22 unsatisfactory. Bottle washing machines were the source of the trouble and after considerable time had been spent on investigation, the faults were rectified. The importance of ensuring that bottles are thoroughly clean from a bacteriological viewpoint tends to be minimised by some operators who are more concerned to ensure that bottles have a clean sparkling appearance. Unfortunately it does not automatically follow that the bottles are, in addition, free from bacteria and it does seem rather a waste of effort to go to considerable trouble and expense to ensure efficient pasteurisation of milk only to place this safe milk in bottles that are not similarly clean and safe.

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949.

The number of licences issued under the above Regulations for the year 1952 was as follows:—

Bottling Establishments (Tuberculin Tested Milk) ...	2
Pasteurising Plants	2
Retailers (Pasteurised 43, Sterilised 118, Accredited 1, Tuberculin Tested 32)	194

The Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order, 1952, came into force on the 1st November, 1952, in several districts in the Midland area, collectively known as a "Specified Area," including the Borough of Oldbury. Under the terms of this Order it is an offence for any person to sell by retail for human consumption any milk other than milk of a special designation, i.e. Tuberculin Tested, Accredited, Pasteurised and Sterilised milk. This requirement does not apply to catering sales.

The bulk of milk sold in the Borough prior to the 1st November was already specially designated milk but now, of course, it is completely so. This is a most satisfactory innovation and cannot help but secure a decline in the incidence of milk-borne diseases.

Meat and other Foods Inspection.

The number of pigs slaughtered during the year on private premises for consumption was 54, all of which were inspected. The pigs were remarkably free from disease.

Table VIII gives a detailed list of diseased or unsound foods condemned and destroyed during the year, or salvaged under the Salvaged Goods Order, 1948.

Food Premises.

Improvements continue to be made in the Borough. Details are given below:—

Food premises cleansed and/or repaired	23
New food stores provided	2
Water heaters or other means of continuous hot water provided	14
Cold storage cabinets provided to shops	2
Intervening ventilated spaces provided or W. Closets fitted with mechanical means of exhaust ventila- tions	3
Refuse bins or other receptacles provided	2
New floors provided	10
New sinks or wash basins provided	8
Additional water taps provided	4
New drainage provided	3

Additional water closets provided	...	...	...	3
Water closets reconstructed	...	...	...	1
Water closets repaired and/or limewashed	...	...	...	8
Water closets provided with new pedestals	...	...	...	3
Ventilation improved	...	...	...	4
Lighting improved	...	...	...	3
Glass food protection cabinets provided in shops	...	...	...	7
Notices re washing of hands provided in sanitary conveniences	...	...	...	6

An old and insanitary sausage and cooked meat factory was demolished during the year and new premises were erected to replace the former ones.

This most notable improvement has to be seen to be fully appreciated. The old premises were dark and very insanitary and did not lend themselves to good methods of hygiene, whereas the new factory is light, airy and well fitted out with tiled walls, adequate sinks, hot and cold water taps, etc., etc.

It has also been observed that when improvements of this nature are carried out there is a decided improvement in methods of hygiene, as of course there should be. This is not only due, in my opinion, to improved buildings and fittings but also to the mental fillip such surroundings give to the personnel working therein.

All the larger sausage making factories in the Borough have now been reconstructed and this does represent a considerable post-war advance in food hygiene at this type of premises.

The proprietor of one shop used for the sale of wet fish was prosecuted during the year under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and the Food Handling Byelaws. The defendant was charged with the following offences:—

Food and Drugs Act, 1938:

1. Walls of shop not cleansed as often as necessary:
2. Walls of preparation room not cleansed as often as necessary.
3. Walls of shop not in a proper state of repair.

Food Handling Byelaws:

4. Fish not protected from contamination by dust, flies, etc.
5. No sufficient supply of hot water in or within reasonable distance of shop for use of persons employed in shop.
6. Walls of preparation room not in a proper state of repair.
7. Insufficient lighting in room in which fish handled.
8. No notice in Water Closet requesting employees to wash their hands.

The defendant was convicted on charges 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 8 but the charges under 5 and 7 were dismissed by the Magistrates. The lighting referred to in item 7 had been attended to between the laying of the information and the hearing of the case, but the charge under 5 was dismissed on the grounds that a bucket of water and a gas ring constituted reasonable hot water for washing purposes.

It is somewhat disappointing that, in these times, such a provision is deemed to satisfy the requirement of "a sufficient supply of hot water." This method of providing a supply of hot water is known to be quite inadequate under working conditions, as was stated in the Court in evidence, but with the present loose wording of Section 13 of the Act seems to satisfy all requirements. In such circumstances the Inspector has to use his powers of persuasion, and it is interesting to note that in the case quoted above a proper water heater was installed by the defendant within a few weeks of the hearing, which makes one believe that he must have appreciated that the requirement was a reasonable one and the kind of supply envisaged by the Act.

It is to be hoped that in the near future a specific requirement regarding washing facilities will be enforceable, a requirement which happily the vast majority of proprietors of food premises recognise as being really necessary for the maintenance of food hygiene.

Ice Cream.

The number of manufacturers registered at the end of the year was 4, and retailers numbered 86, an increase of 16 over the previous year.

23 samples of ice cream were taken during the year for bacteriological examination, 22 of which were in Grade 1 (Ministry of Health Provisional Grade), and only one in Grade 3; 27 samples were taken for chemical analysis, all of which complied with the Food Standards (Ice Cream) Order, 1951, and the Amendment Order of 1952. Under the provisions of the 1952 Order a lower standard was laid down in view of the shortage of fats and milk powder, in order to keep up supplies of ice cream.

Food and Drugs Sampling.

The number of samples taken for chemical analysis under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 (excluding ice cream) was 210, of which 198 were certified genuine and 12 adulterated. Details of the 12 adulterated are given overleaf:—

Article	Formal or Informal	Adulteration	Action Taken
1. Tinned cherries	Informal	Sulphurated Hydrogen content giving offensive smell and taste.	Whole stock from which sample taken surrendered and destroyed.
2. Golden Butter Mints.	Informal	Butter-fat not more than 2.8%.	Formal follow - up sample taken (see 4 below).
3. Dairy Butter Mints.	Informal	Total fat 0.8%. Insufficient fat in sample to examine for butter fat.	Formal follow - up sample taken (see below).
4. Golden Butter Mints	Formal	Butter Fat 3.4%.	Warning letter to Manufacturers.
5. Dairy Butter Mints.	Formal	Butter Fat 2.3%.	Ditto. See also 11 below.
6. Orange Juice (M.O.F.).	Informal	Excess Sulphite Preservative (480 p.p.m. SO ₂). Limit by regulation s 350 p.p.m.	Letter to Ministry of Food, Guildford. Stock withdrawn.
7. Milk (1.5.52)	Formal	20% deficient in fat	<div> <div> { </div> <div> Appeal - to - cow samples at two farms also deficient in fat (Friesian herds). Advice given on feeding and milking by County Milk Production Officer and later samples proved genuine. </div> </div>
8. Milk (1.5.52)	Formal	3.3% " " "	
9. Milk (1.5.52)	Formal	16.7% " " "	
10. Milk (6.5.52)	Formal	6.7% " " "	
11. Dairy Butter Mints.	Formal	Butter Fat 3.5%.	Final warning letter to manufacturer (Same manufacturer as in 2, 3, 4 and 5 above).
12. Vitamin 'A' & 'D' Tablets	Informal	Deficiency in Vitamin 'A' in sample but additional Vitamins B ₁ , B ₂ , and C also present in sample which appeared to be a multi-vitamin preparation rather than Vitamin A and D Tablets.	Warning letter to chemist retailer.

Shops Act, 1950.

Improvements, on a rather limited scale, have been effected to a number of shops during the year as follows:—

Means of heating provided in shops	...	...	...	5
Adequate sanitary accommodation secured (by provision or repair)	...	...	...	4
Ventilation improved	...	...	...	3
Improved washing facilities provided	...	...	...	2

Factories Act, 1937.

Nineteen factories were inspected during the year. The number of visits was 21.

Ten contraventions were found, and five remedied.

Offensive Trades.

Nuisances from objectionable odours arose during the year from two offensive trade factories in the Borough.

In one case a detailed inspection of the factory revealed several defects, the majority of which were quickly remedied. The causes of the odours, which mainly occurred during hot weather, were found to be reception, storage and treatment of raw material not in a fresh condition and, in particular, inadequate treatment of foul vapours from processing plant. The Firm, following receipt of representations from the Department, took steps immediately to control raw materials, and has since placed an order for condensers and auxiliary equipment which should shortly be fitted.

In the second case, new and improved sprays fitted into the existing condensing chamber, together with a reduction in the time of processing, has abated a nuisance of long standing.

Smoke Abatement and Atmospheric Pollution.

The year has witnessed the installation of the aerodynamic dust extraction plant envisaged in my previous report and the subsequent abatement of the serious nuisance from resin dust emitted from a local chemical factory.

Further improvements in atmospheric conditions have included:—

- (a) Installation of a mechanical underfeed stoker to a vertical boiler to abate a serious nuisance of long standing.
- (b) Abatement of nuisances from pulverised fuel fired heat treatment furnaces (grit), chain grate stoker fired forced circulation boilers (grit) and C.T.F. fired Lancashire and water tube boilers (smoke) following rectification of draught and firing troubles.

Nuisance has again been experienced from the emission of dust from enamel spraying plant at a Rood End factory. The dust is so fine as to penetrate into houses in the proximity (engendering several complaints to the Department), but can be combated by water spray dust arresters. New comprehensive plant is required, and the firm has been pressed to instal same without delay, though the cost is likely to be very high. I am hoping that this severe nuisance will be abated very shortly.

Public Cleansing.

Collection and Disposal of House and Trade Refuse.

House refuse from dwelling-houses and trade refuse from shops and other premises (by agreement), is carried out by direct labour, the average period between collections having varied between 7 and 10 days. A seven day collection has been maintained by three gangs out of six for the greater part of the year, and these men have benefitted as a result of the operation of an incentive bonus scheme adopted by the Council three years ago, which provides for the payment of a basic bonus where the sub-district allotted is scavenged weekly, and also provides for an additional payment to each member of a gang which may be depleted as a result of sickness, absenteeism or otherwise, providing a weekly collection is maintained. The average number of bins allotted per man weekly is 650. Difficulty was again experienced in recruiting a sufficient number of suitable men for this work, which necessitated the further employment of a small proportion of contract labour.

Your Refuse Tip at Portway Road, where a high standard of controlled tipping is maintained, again accommodated the whole of the house and trade refuse collected in the Borough. This tip is free from nuisance of any description and no complaint has been received throughout the year, which reflects much credit on your employees (including General Foreman) engaged on this work.

From Table I it will be seen that the net cost of the collection and disposal of house and trade refuse (including kitchen waste and salvage collected separately) was £19,861 compared with £18,495 in 1951. Increases in wages and transport costs were reflected in this higher figure. The weight of refuse collected and disposed of was 12,987 tons, representing 13.2 cwts. per 1,000 population per day.

Salvage of Waste Materials.

There was an income of £7,003 from the sales of salvage materials during the year, the number of tons collected being 953. These figures, although satisfactory, are much lower than in the previous year when prices for waste paper were at the highest-ever level.

Waste paper collected amounted to 284 tons and kitchen waste 587 tons, against 313 and 674 tons respectively in the previous year.

As in previous years a separate collection of waste paper was continued from schools, factories, shops, offices, and numerous dwelling houses, and other items of salvage are reclaimed at the Refuse Disposal Tip.

Two motor vehicles were engaged whole-time on waste paper collections and one whole-time on waste food collections and deliveries, whilst a fourth vehicle was used part-time on both these services.

Verminous Houses.

All cases of vermin infestation discovered during the year were dealt with at once, involving the disinfestation of 31 private dwelling-houses, of which 4 were municipally owned.

Smoke generators (Gammexane) and liquid insecticide continue to be used for this purpose, with good results.

Pyrethrum powder and a liquid D.D.T. emulsion are used with good effect against cockroaches, beetles and like pests.

Tenants of all houses where disinfestation is carried out are given the necessary advice on measures necessary to prevent re-infestation and bad cases are followed up.

Rodent Control.

I have pleasure again in reporting a satisfactory year's work for which statistics are promulgated in Table X.

With increasing experience of the administration of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, it is becoming ever more evident that this Act is a vastly superior weapon in the hands of Local Authorities in the fight against the rat and mouse. There are also indications that the majority of the public are aware of the facilities supplied by Local Authorities in this sphere of environmental health services, though there are, despite publicity, a large number of occupiers of premises who are still not aware of the statutory obligation imposed upon them to notify rodent infestations to the Council.

The year has been marked by the provision of an operational store, appropriately equipped, for the exclusive use of the Rodent Staff, with a resultant improvement in working conditions.

The execution of two sewer treatments has maintained the eminently satisfactory position regarding sewer infestations in this, an industrial Borough, the number of manholes showing infestation not reaching double figures out of a total of 1,182 foul manholes.

Public Swimming Baths.

The water of the two pools at the Public Swimming Baths in the Borough, owned by the Corporation, was sampled during the swimming season.

Six such samples were taken, all of which were satisfactory.

Staff.

It is pleasing to again record that no staff changes occurred during the year, although Mr. Poultney, Chief Clerk, actually left at the end of the year to take up a similar appointment at Devizes. He gave loyal and efficient service for several years. The staff could not have been more loyal, and their work is reflected in this report.

Conclusion.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee I would again like to express thanks for your administrative support and confidence. I am also indebted to the Town Clerk, Medical Officer of Health and other Chief Officers for their co-operation.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

E. HARROLD,

Chief Sanitary Inspector
and
Cleansing Superintendent.

Sanitary Department,
Municipal Buildings,
Oldbury.

31st August, 1953.

TABLE I.

PUBLIC CLEANSING SERVICE.
Collection and Disposal of House and Trade Refuse
(including Kitchen Waste and Salvage
collected separately).

Table for the year ended 31st March, 1953.

Item	Particulars	Collection	Disposal	Totals
	I	2	3	4
	REVENUE ACCOUNT	£	£	£
1.	GROSS EXPENDITURE:			
	(i) Labour	11,663	3,042	14,705
	(ii) Transport	8,883	1,618	10,501
	(iii) Plant, equipment, land and buildings ...	1,144	911	2,055
	(iv) Other items	, 286	188	474
	(v) Total gross expenditure	21,976	5,759	27,735
2.	GROSS INCOME	534	7,340	7,874
3.	NET COST	21,442	CR. 1,581	19,861
4.	Capital expenditure met from revenue	—	—	—
	UNIT COSTS:	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
5.	Gross cost per ton, labour only	17 11	4 8	22 7
6.	Gross cost per ton, transport only	13 8	2 6	16 2
7.	Net cost (all expenditure) per ton	£1 13 0	2 5 (profit)	£1 10 7
8.	Net cost per 1,000 population	£ 397	£ 29 (profit)	£ 368
9.	Net cost per 1,000 premises	1,454	107 (profit)	1,347

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS.

10.	Population at 30th June, 1952	...	...	...	...	...	53,895 persons
11.	Total refuse collected	...	...	...	...	...	12,987 tons
12.	Weight per 1,000 population per day (365 days to year)	...	...	...	...	...	13.2 cwts.
13.	Number of premises from which refuse is collected	...	...	...	...	...	14,670 premises
14.	Average haul (miles) by collection vehicle to disposal point	...	...	...	...	...	2 miles
15.	Frequency of collection	...	...	...	...	...	7 to 10 days
16.	Total refuse disposed of	...	...	...	...	...	12,987 tons
17.	Method of disposal: Controlled tipping	...	...	...	...	...	100%
18.	Salvage and Trade Refuse. Analysis of income and tonnage:						
						Income (Included in Item 2)	Tonnage Collected
	Salvage:					£	Tons
	(a) Kitchen Waste	...	...	...	...	4,088	587
	(b) Scrap Metal	...	...	...	...	383	66
	(c) Waste Paper	...	...	...	...	2,389	284
	(d) Other Salvage	...	...	...	...	143	15
	Trade Refuse	...	...	...	...	616	Not collected separately

TABLE II.
WATER SUPPLY.

	Number of Dwelling	
	Houses	Population
Water supplied direct to houses ...	14,556	53,857
Water supplied from mains to stand pipes or taps in yards serving two or more houses	114	421
Water supplied from communal pipes serving particular parts of the district	Nil	Nil
Water supplied from private supplies (e.g. wells, springs, etc.)	Nil	Nil

TABLE III.
SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Number of dwellings connected to a public sewer	...	14,658
Estimated population served ... ..	...	54,234
Number of houses with pail closets ... ..	...	10
Number of houses with cess-pools, etc ... ..	...	2
Number of houses with private installation	...	Nil
Number of factories with pail closets ... ..	...	1
Number of factories with cess-pools ... ..	...	1
Number of lock-up shops with cess-pools	...	1

TABLE IV.

**Summary of defects remedied, improvements effected and
nuisances abated under the Housing, Public Health and
O.U.D.C. Acts during the year 1952.**

Houses cleansed and/or repaired under Public Health Act, 1936	112
Houses provided with improved ventilation and existing windows made to open	2
New windows provided and others repaired	87
Staircases repaired or new provided	7
Handrails provided to staircases	10

New floors provided and others repaired	...	...	26
Firegrates repaired or new provided	...	...	26
New doors provided and others repaired	...	...	17
New sinks provided	...	...	3
New waste pipes provided and others repaired	...	...	15
Water supply—additional taps provided	...	...	2
—burst water pipes repaired or new provided			22
Foul cellars cleansed and defects in drains remedied	...		9
Drains opened and cleansed from obstruction	...	...	131
Drains provided with efficient traps	...	...	2
New drains and/or inspection chambers provided (excluding new houses)	...	...	6
Inspection chambers repaired or new covers provided	...		3
Drains relaid or repaired	...	...	27
Soil and ventilating pipes improved or new provided	...		12
Additional water closets provided	...	...	7
Trough closets abolished	...	...	2
Water closets provided in place of above	...	...	2
Water closets repaired and/or limewashed	...	...	51
Water closets provided with new pedestals	...	...	22
Foul water closet basins and traps cleansed	...	...	2
Defective water closet cisterns repaired or replaced	...		32
Defective spouting repaired or disconnected or new spouting provided	...	...	122
Leaky roofs repaired	...	...	94
House roofs stripped and re-covered	...	...	1
Dangerous chimneys rebuilt	...	...	32
Courts, back-yards or approaches paved or repaired	...		15
New sculleries provided	...	...	1
Wash-houses repaired and/or limewashed	...	...	16
Wash-houses reconstructed	...	...	1
Additional wash-houses provided	...	...	2
Houses provided with suitable coal storage	...	...	3
Walls weatherproofed externally	...	...	32
Derelict buildings demolished	...	...	1
Dirty and verminous houses cleansed and purified	...		1
Houses painted inside and/or outside	...	...	6
Smoke nuisances abated	...	...	1
Nuisances from animals abated	...	...	1
Old ash pits abolished	...	...	1
Miscellaneous	...	...	89

TABLE V.

Summary of Inspections and Revisits during the year 1952.

				Inspection tions	Re- visits
Infectious diseases prevention ...	...	...	...	135	82
Houses and premises ...	...	...	...	374	1,005
Overcrowding ...	...	...	...	145	7
Water closets and drains ...	...	...	...	230	303
Meat and other foods inspection ...	...	...	...	157	4
Food premises (excluding ice-cream) ...	...	...	...	105	180
Dairies, cowsheds and milkshops ...	...	...	...	56	12
Keeping of animals and/or poultry ...	...	...	...	37	13
Factories ...	...	...	...	17	4
Dirty and/or verminous houses and premises ...	...	...	...	30	32
Canal boats ...	...	...	...	5	—
Tents, vans and sheds (including temporary buildings) ...	...	...	...	3	1
Refuse removal and disposal (including tips) ...	...	...	...	325	4
Rats and mice nuisances ...	...	...	...	203	532
Salvage ...	...	...	...	618	—
Food and drugs sampling ...	...	...	...	122	—
Miscellaneous sampling ...	...	...	...	9	—
Dustbins ...	...	...	...	1,163	1
Water supplies and samples ...	...	...	...	32	2
Offensive Trades ...	...	...	...	9	6
Smoke observations ...	...	...	...	15	—
Atmospheric pollution (including smoke nuisances)				110	127
Paving of courts, yards and passages ...	...	...	...	6	1
Ice cream premises—manufacture and/or sale ...	...	...	...	21	17
Foul cellars ...	...	...	...	10	1
Suspected cases of food poisoning ...	...	...	...	5	3
House measurement under Housing Act, 1936 ...	...	...	...	14	—
Obstructed and foul water courses ...	...	...	...	13	8
Shops (including inspections under Shops Act) ...	...	...	...	59	44
Food transport and sale vehicles ...	...	...	...	6	3
Hairdressers' shops ...	...	...	...	2	—
Foul odours ...	...	...	...	5	1
Chemical works ...	...	...	...	11	—
Legal proceedings ...	...	...	...	5	—
Slum clearance ...	...	...	...	—	3

				Inspection	Re-visits
Keeping of pets and pet shops ...	...	...	...	9	9
Brook courses ...	...	...	...	15	—
Canal pollution ...	...	...	...	22	8
Swimming baths ...	...	...	...	4	—
Miscellaneous ...	...	...	...	359	7
Number of interviews ...	...	...	...	716	—

TABLE VI.
PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936 AND
CANAL BOAT REGULATIONS.

Statistical Supplement to the Annual Report for the year 1952.

Number of canal boats on register ...	...	...	22
Number of canal boats registered during the year ...	...	...	1
Number of other canal boats inspected ...	...	...	4
Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	...	...	5
Total number for which the cabins were registered ...	...	...	19
Total number occupying the cabins ...	...	...	*16

*1 boat was void at time of inspection.

TABLE VII.

Summary of notices served during the year 1952.

Public Health Act, 1936:	Preliminary	Statutory
Nuisance properties ...	210	108
Paving of yards ...	5	5
Defective water closets... ..	7	4
Proposed work of maintenance on sewers...	1	1
Defective drains ...	9	7
Insufficient water closet accommodation ...	1	1
Provision of soil pipes and ventilating shafts ...	2	1
O.U.D.C. Act, 1929:		
Defective drains ...	—	14
Shops Act, 1950 ...	2	3
Food and Drugs Act, 1938 ...	6	9
Food Handling Byelaws ...	—	4
Housing Act, 1936:		
Overcrowding ...	—	2
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 ...	8	—
Totals	251	159

TABLE VIII.

Summary of diseased and unsound foods condemned and destroyed,
or disposed of under Salvaged Goods Order, 1948.

				Weight				
				tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	ozs.
<i>Offal:—</i>								
Liver (Beast's)	...	...	...				8	8
<i>Miscellaneous Foods:—</i>								
Fish Cakes (48)	...	...	...				6	0
Fish and Fish Paste (261 tins)	...	...	...	1	0		20	1
Kippers	...	...	...	1	0		0	0
Sausage (loose)	...	...	...		1		15	0
Sausage (6 tins)	...	...	...				5	5
Ham (tinned)	...	...	...	8	2		17	2
Meat (384 tins)	...	...	...	6	0		1	5
Meat Paste (1 tin)	...	...	...					1
Soup and Soup Powders (29 tins and packets)	...	...	...		1		26	15
Sandwich Spread (2 jars)	...	...	...					9
Salad Cream (7 jars)	...	...	...				2	11
Onions (2 jars)	...	...	...				1	4
Gherkins (1 jar)	...	...	...					5
Pickled Walnuts (1 jar)	...	...	...					10
Sauce (19 bottles)	...	...	...				15	10
Pickles (1 jar)	...	...	...					10
Vegetables (758 tins)	...	...	...	5	3		25	9
Tomatoes (raw)	...	...	...				2	4
Spaghetti (7 tins)	...	...	...				5	0
Spaghetti and Sausage (1 tin)	...	...	...				1	0
Milk (68 tins)	...	...	...		2		11	4
Cheese	...	...	...		1		19	14
Cheese Spread	...	...	...				12	4
Butter	...	...	...		2		0	0
Fruit (2,399 tins)	...	...	...	1	5	3	25	11
Fruit Pudding (2 tins)	...	...	...				1	10
Dried Fruit	...	...	...		2		22	8
Chicken (5 tins)	...	...	...				7	3
Mincemeat (10 jars)	...	...	...				9	14
Lemon Curd (7 jars)	...	...	...				6	10
Jam and Marmalade (22 tins and jars)	...	...	...				24	5
Golden Syrup (1 tin)	...	...	...				2	0

				Weight			
				tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs. ozs.
Olive Oil (1 jar)	...	...	...				3
Pepper (1 jar)	...	...	...				4
Tea	...	...	...			3	12
Beverages (e.g. Ovaltine, etc.)							
(4 tins and jars)	...	...	...			2	0
Coffee Essence (3 bottles)	...	...	...			1	14
Sugar	...	...	...	1	0	14	0
Cereals (8 packets)	...	...	...			6	14
Flour (10 bags)	...	...	...		1	2	0
Custard Powder (12 packets)	...	...	...			1	2
Cake and Flour Mixture (2 bags)	...	...	...			1	4
Corn Flour	...	...	...			20	8
Rice Flour	...	...	...			7	8
Gelatine (1 tin)	...	...	...				4
Jelly (2 packets)	...	...	...				7
Coconut Macaroons (45 cartons)	...	...	...	3	2	13	0
Macaroni (1 tin)	...	...	...			1	0
Total				2	18	1	11 0

TABLE IX.

HOUSING.

Number of New Houses erected during the year.

(i) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	138
(ii) By other Local Authorities	...	...	...	28
(iii) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	14
Total				180

1.—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	404
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose (excluding revisits)	...	...	...	358
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	...	...	...	9
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	9
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	25

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (excluding those in (3) above) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	379
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2.—Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	175
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3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

(a) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—				
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	140
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices				
(a) by owners	...	...	...	115
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	...			6
(b) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—				
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...		9
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...		9
(c) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—				
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	Nil

4.—Housing Act, 1936, Part IV—Overcrowding.

(a) Number of alleged cases of overcrowding investigated during the year	...	...	...	88
(b) Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	30
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	17
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...			165
(iii) Number of persons actually rehoused	...			103
(iv) Number of cases of Tuberculosis rehoused	...			4

TABLE X.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Infectious Diseases, etc.

Visits to houses on account of notifiable disease	...	131
Houses disinfected after notifiable disease by the Local Authority	... ..	17

Sanitary Conveniences.

Number of cess-pools in use at end of year	... ..	4
Number of earth or pail closets in use at end of year	...	11

House Refuse Collection and Disposal.

Number of houses from which refuse was removed	...	14,670
Number of dustbins cleansed periodically	... ..	14,670
Number of tons of house refuse collected	... ..	12,987
Number of dustbins provided (including 984 under General Rate Fund Scheme)	... ..	1,377
Expenditure on purchases	... ..	£1,976
Income from sales	... ..	£506

Salvage of Waste Materials.

Weight collected in tons:—

Waste Paper	... ..	304
Textiles	... ..	4
Ferrous Scrap	... ..	72
Best Metals	... ..	1
Glass	11
Bones	4
Waste Food	604

Offensive Trades.

Number under observation	4
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Water Supply.

All houses supplied from South Staffordshire Waterworks.

Number of samples of water sent for Bacteriological Examination	23
Number of samples of water sent for Chemical Analysis	...	23
Number of samples found to be satisfactory bacteriologically	... ..	23

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act.

	Type of Property				Totals
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	Business Premises	
1. Total number of properties in District ...	37	14,102	7	885	15,031
2. Number of properties inspected by Local Authority as a result of					
(a) notification ...	10	57	1	23	91
(b) otherwise ...	2	438	4	249	689
3. Number of properties (under 2 above) found to be infested by rats:—					
Major ...	—	—	—	3	3
Minor ...	5	46	1	24	76
4. Number of properties found to be infested by mice ...	7	13	—	12	32
5. Number of infested properties treated by Local Authority ...	12	59	1	38	110
6. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949					
(i) Treatment ...	—	1	—	4	5
(ii) Structural Work (i.e. proofing) ...	—	—	—	3	3
7. Number of cases in which default action was taken by Local Authority after service of notice ...	—	—	—	—	—
8. Legal proceedings ...	—	—	—	—	—
9. Number of “block” control schemes carried out ...	8				
10. Number of dead rats found ...				124	
11. Number of dead mice found ...				85	
			Total	209	

Other Matters.

Verminous houses—cases dealt with ...	37
Nuisances arising from domestic animals and/or poultry	5

